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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1819
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 4112
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 9854
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 4713
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE 9820
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 4458
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 2698
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0948
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1177
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1833
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001504

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [MASS](#) [NP](#)
SUBJECT: CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF ON HUMAN RIGHTS; MAOISTS

REF: KATHMANDU 1376

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Larry Schwartz, Reasons, 1.4 (b/d).

Charge Presses On Human Rights Improvements

11. (C) On June 12, the Charge d'Affaires, accompanied by A/DCM and ODC Chief, met with Chief of Army Staff General Pyar Jung Thapa to inform him of the USG decision to return Captain Indiver Rana to Nepal from U.S.-based training due to our concerns that he was serving in a unit currently facing serious human right abuse allegations. The Charge urged that the Nepalese Army (NA) cooperate fully with the investigation by the UN's Nepal Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) into the ill-treatment and disappearance of detainees from the Maharajgunj barracks during September-December 2003. The Charge stressed that the decision to return Captain Rana signaled the seriousness with which we viewed allegations of human rights abuses.

12. (C) Thapa expressed his understanding of the USG decision and said the Nepali Army had "no regret" that Rana was being brought back to Nepal. The Chief stated that the NA "will look into this," but that it will take time. He said the NA planned to name a brigadier general to lead its investigation. He noted that the army had disclosed the whereabouts of three of the disappeared alleged in the OHCHR report on the Maharajgunj barracks released in late May (one died in the hospital); he speculated that the army might also have traced five or six of the disappeared, in which case maybe more could be accounted for. The Chief worried about the timing of this OHCHR report, when the USG was reviewing its foreign assistance policy. The Charge assured Thapa that the USG wanted to help the Government of Nepal (GON) should the GON request security equipment assistance, and pressed him to continue to address impunity within the NA.

Concern About Maoists ...

13. (C) General Thapa emphasized his concern about ongoing Maoist recruitment, extortion, and training. He said the Maoists were using this cease-fire, as they had the two previous cease-fires, to work toward their goal of a

one-party totalitarian state. He stated that "so far we have been able to hold the Maoists, the next time they might be able to take over." He explained that the Maoists were obtaining weapons commercially from India. In addition to AK-47s, explosives, and other materiel, the NA heard that the Maoists had acquired eight anti-aircraft missile launchers.

... But Good Dialogue With Government

14. (C) The Chief said he thought the government also understands Maoist intentions, and wants to keep the Army strong, but that it was also compelled to try to keep the peace talks with the Maoists going. Thapa bemoaned that the government does not always accept or act on the army's advice. He noted that although the army had given suggestions for the code of conduct, not all of the army's suggestions were included. He stated that the army has "very good relations" with Prime Minister Koirala. He noted that he talks "brass tacks" with the PM's Defense Advisor, Ramesh Jung Thapa, who understands the NA. Thapa concluded that the army has a meaningful dialogue with the civilian government.

Comment

15. (C) The news about the anti-aircraft rocket launchers is disturbing. We offered to follow up if the army could provide further details.
SCHWARTZ